

County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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July 27, 2005

Board of Supervisors GLORIA MOLINA First District

YVONNE B. BURKE Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY Third District

DON KNABE Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

Fifth District

To:

Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair

Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky

Supervisor Don Knabe

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From:

David E. Janssen

Chief Administrative Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Status of County Interest Legislation

County-sponsored AB 1769 (Negrete McCleod), which authorizes the Board of Supervisors to permit the Fire Chief to continue to serve beyond the age of 60 by adoption of a Board resolution, was signed by the Governor today. The bill requires the Fire Chief to have been employed in that capacity prior to May 1, 2005 and to retire before April 1, 2009. The Governor's signing message is attached.

We will continue to keep you advised.

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Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

County Counsel

Local 660

All Department Heads Legislative Strategist

Coalition of County Unions

California Contract Cities Association

Independent Cities Association

League of California Cities

City Managers Associations

Buddy Program Participants

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To Members of the California State Assembly:

Like a fine wine, fire chiefs improve with age and experience. Just because an individual hits a mark on a calendar does not mean that he or she is incapable of doing his or her duties. I encourage our public servants to continue to serve our state as long as they are willing and capable.

For these reasons, I am signing Assembly Bill 1769 to allow Los Angeles County to retain its current fire chief, Michael Freeman.

Chief Freeman is a well-respected leader in Los Angeles County. Losing his expertise and experience by placing a limit on his service is a detriment to the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the four million residents it serves. If he is willing and capable, he should be allowed to serve until he is ready to retire. Furthermore, the Legislature should revisit this issue and eliminate the clause that requires the chief to resign in 2009.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger